

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY China

DATE DISTR. 15 MAY 50

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SUBJECT Supply and Prices of Consumer Goods in Manchuria

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1. Because of reduced production and limited imports from other countries, the commodities which were formerly imported are in very short supply in Manchuria. Clothing particularly is a difficulty for the farming population, although the city residents are not so badly off in this respect. Food, too, is difficult, except for items of grains and meats, which are locally produced, and prices are very high. Many commodities can be acquired only through black markets.

2. In the area adjacent to North Korea, there used to be considerable exchange of grains for textiles, since much clothing material for Manchuria was imported from North Korea. Some trade still exists, although travel across the river is forbidden by the Manchurian authorities; it is in small quantities and on a barter basis. The North Koreans have little cloth to trade or sell; the hemp cloth on which they depend for summer clothing is still obtainable, but materials for winter garments which were imported, [redacted] are not now available. In consequence, the population of the hill villages on both sides of the border are scantily clothed for winter weather.

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3. Typical prices in effect [redacted] were the following, in NEPC:

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Rice, per catty	80,000	Socks, per pair	30,000
Salt, per catty	60,000	Rubber shoes, per pair	200,000
Sugar, per catty	35,000	Cotton cloth, per yard	300,000
Beef, per catty	25,000	Matches, per box	15,000

4. Laborers' salaries were NEPC 600,000 per month; office workers received NEPC 1,000,000 and senior technicians NEPC 3,000,000 per month.

5. [redacted] a catty of rice cost NEPC 8,500. Farmers were taxed 25 percent of their total crop, plus a 15 percent tax on whatever part of the crop was sold. Difficulties of farming conditions were inducing many Korean residents to seek a return to North Korea.*

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Comment. For programs to induce North Koreans to emigrate to Manchuria, [redacted]

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